VI. *An Extract of the Account mentioned in the foregoing Letter, taken out of an* Italian *Paper. Written by* P. Aleſſandro Burgos. *Printed firſt at* Palermo, *and afterwards at* Naples. 1693.

HOW difficult is the Task to deſcribe in a few Pages the mournful *Iliads* of the once famous Kingdom of *Sicilia*, in great part ruined by the terrible Shakes of the late Earthquake? How ſhall I, amongſt the Confuſion of Tears, Sighs and Groans, diſcover the Hiſtory of our Miſery? Or amongſt a Chaos of Rubbiſh find the Marks of our Deſolation? Nay, how can I recall to mind, without Amazement, the Relations that came from all parts of the Deſolate Land? Yet your Commands are to be obey'd.

Quanquam animus meminiſſe horret luctuque refugit
Incipiam------

The Iſland of *Sicilia* of 700 Miles Circuit, and divided into three Valleys, began on *Friday* the *9th* of *Jan.* about half an hour paſt Four a Clock, to be ſenſible of the Shake in the Valley of *Mazara*: But in the two other Valleys of *Emone* and *Noto*, the Shakes were ſo terrible, as to throw down ſome Buildings, obliging the Inhabitants to ſeek Refuge either in the Fields, or with Prayers and Tears implore the Divine Pity in the Churches. On *Sunday* following, being the *11th* of the ſame Month, at twenty hours and three quarters, the Hand of God appeared much more terrible, awakening the moſt Lethargick Sinner. The Shakes of this Earthquake

quake did no Damage in the Valley of *Mazara*, only frighting the People.

Palermo received ſome Detriment in moſt of the Buildings, eſpecially the Palace and Hoſpital of St. *Bartholomews*. The Steeple of St. *Nicholas*, belonging to the *Augnſtines*, was ruined, and ſome hurt done to the Church; but little Miſchief elſe done, and no body hurt.

In *Meſſina* all the Buildings of the Theatre are ſhatter-ed, the Royal and Archbiſhop's Palace, with the Semina-ry, are all crack'd. The vaſt and ſtately Church of the *Franciſcans* broken in many places, and the Roof of the Veſtry fallen: The Steeple of the Church of the Annun-ciation thrown down, with the Death of the Sexton. The top of the Spire of the *Dome* cleft, all the other Religi-ous Houſes and Publick Buildings were ſaved. Many private Buildings were thrown down, and all the reſt ſhored up. There were but few Perſons kill'd.

Troina, *Randazzo*, *Nicoſia*, Cities in the Mountains, ſuffered in their Buildings. The firſt had half of the Mo-ther-Church deſtroyed, with the Pariſh Church of St. *Lu-cy*, and was much damaged in his Monaſteries; one whereof is not habitable. The laſt had its *Dome* very much hurt. *Caſtiglione* had the Caſtle and many Hou-ſes thrown down. In *Francavilla* and *Linguagroſſa*, the greater part of the Buildings and ſome Churches. *Maſ-cali* quite ruined, but not many killed, moſt of the Peo-ple being abroad a Proceſſion with the Reliques of St. *Le-onard* their Protector.

Aidone received a conſiderable Miſchief, two whole Quarters, with many of its Inhabitants being deſtroyed. In the Quarter of St. *Laurence* there is not one Houſe ſtanding, and the Churches ruined. In that of St. *James* the Church of the *Annunciation* and its Oratory thrown down, with ſeveral other Sacred Edifices. In the o-ther part of the City which ſtands lower, there were not ſo many Houſes nor Perſons loſt, yet the Church of

Pope

Pope *Leo* is quite flat, and the magnificent Church of the *Dominicans* in Ruines, with the Convent of the *Reformati Oſſervanti*, one of the beſt in the whole Province.

Abi Aquilea, commonly called *Jaci Reale*, ſituated at the Foot of *Etna* is almoſt quite deſtroyed, and its Inhabitants buried in the Ruines, with many Convents; amongſt the reſt, the famous one of the *Oſſervanti Reformati*. *Aci St. Antonio*, *Aci St. Filippo*, *S. Gregorio*, *Pedara Trecaſtagni*, *Bonnacorei*, *Nicoloſi*, *Motta*, *Meſterbianco*, *Fenicia*, and ſeveral other fruitful Villages ſituated near *Mongibello*, are deſtroyed, with all the Habitations of the pleaſant Hills about *Cananea*, which are now in the Duſt.

Paterno, about Twelve Miles from *Catania*, a populous City at the foot of *Mongibello*, ſubject to the Dutchy of *Montalto*, felt the dreadful Effects of the Earthquake, looſing moſt of its Buildings, all the Convents of Fryars, and a very fine Monaſtery. In the Ruines were buried Forty Perſons. *Aderno*, a City ſubject to the ſame Lords, had the ſame Fate.

Cantabiano Piemonte in the Valley of *Emona*, *Francofonte*, *Palagonia* in the Valley of *Noto* are little leſs than wholly level'd, and about 300 Perſons deſtroyed, as we have by the Letter of the Marqueſs of *Francofonte*, who was miraculouſly ſaved by leaping out through the Crack in the Wall of the Falling Edifice.

Catania, one of the moſt ancient and famous Cities of the whole Kingdom, honoured by the Courts of ſeveral Monarchs, and an Epiſcopal See, even from the time of the Apoſtles, giving place to none in the Beauty of its Sacred Edifices; amongſt which the *Dome* was the moſt ſumptuous and large in all *Sicily*, adorned with excellent Pictures, and richly furniſhed, and bleſs'd with the Reliques of the Invincible Martyr St. *Agatha*, honoured with the Bodies of ſeveral Kings; beſides it had a very high

high and curiouſly built Steeple. Here were a great many Nunneries; amongſt the reſt, the Monaſtery of the Trinity; and that of St. *Benedict*, with that Prodigy of Workmanſhip the magnificent Monaſtery of St. *Nicholas*, with its Temple, a place famous for ſeveral Reliques. Next the Jeſuits Colledge, the Convent of the *Minorites*, and two of the *Dominicans*, the beautiful one of *Capuchins*, the Imperial Convent of the *Carmelites*, that of the Reformed *Minorites*, that of the Reformed *Auguſtines*, with ſeveral other Frieries, with an infinite number of Ancient and Modern Churches, Colleges, and other Publick Buildings, inhabited by about 23000 Souls, its Nobility many and ancient. Learning was here in its Glory; the Citizens were themſelves Learned, and Lovers of Knowledge, aſſiſted with the many Priviledges granted by the King. The Univerſity, where the Learned Laurel was conferr'd on the worthy, made this place the *Sicilian Athens*. This once ſo famous, now unhappy *Catania*, had the greateſt ſhare in this Tragedy. Father *Antonio Serrovita*, who was to preach at *Catania* the Lent following, was on his way thither on the 11th, at 20 hours and ½, and at the diſtance of a few Miles; he obſerved a black Cloud like Night hovering over the City; that there aroſe from the Mouth of *Mongibello* great Spires of Flame, which ſpread themſelves all round, that the Sea all of a ſuddain began to roar, and raiſe it ſelf in ſwelling Billows, that there was a very great and dreadful Blow, as if all the Artillery in the World had been at once diſcharged; that the Birds flew about aſtoniſh'd in the Air; that the Beaſts and Cattle in the Fields ran crying about affrighted; that his and his Companions Horſes were ſo ſtartled, that they ſtood ſtock ſtill, trembling ſo as they were forced to alight, which they had no ſooner done, but they were lifted from the Ground above two Palms; and caſting his Eyes toward *Catania*, he with Amazement ſaw no-

thing but a very thick Cloud of Duſt in the Air. This was the Scene of their Calamity. For of the magnificent *Catania* there is not the leaſt Foot-ſtep to be ſeen. All its Edifices are levell'd with the Ground, except the Chappel of St. *Agatha*, the *Rotunda*, the Caſtle of *Urſino*, the Walls that encompaſs'd it, and a few mean Houſes. There was a very great Deſtruction of the Inhabitants buried in the Ruines of the Biſhop's Palace; the Steeple and *Dome*, where moſt of the City, frightned with *Friday's* Earthquake, were got together to carry the Reliques of St. *Agatha* in Proceſſion. Many of the Nobility were ſaved under the Chappel of the Saint, and ſome of the Clergy. The number of the Dead was about 15000; for though the People had ſtaid in the Fields all the *Saturday*, yet the Solemnity obliged them to be in the City on the *Sunday* to pay their Devotions, at the Proceſſion. Of the *Benedictines* about 25 were killed in the Quire, of the *Jeſuits* 21, of the *Conventuals* 11, the number of the *Dominicans* is not known; the *Carmelites* were all buried except one as they went in Proceſſion; and ſo were the greater part of the other Religious Orders, and of the Nuns few were ſaved. This was the Tragedy of *Catania*, which was accompanied with dreadful Lightnings and Thunder from Heaven, with Deluges of Rain; and in the Ruines were heard nothing but Cries, Schrieches and dying Groans. On the Heaps of Stones we may now write, *Here was* Catania.

Lentini, a very ancient City, honoured with the Births of many Illuſtrious Perſons; amongſt the reſt, that Father of Eloquence, *Georgio Leontino*, of a long time an Epiſcopal See, *&c.* felt that Shock on the 9th with ſuch Violence, as threw down and ruined the greater part of its Buildings; amongſt which was the ancient Convent of *Minorites*, famous for being the Dwelling-place of St. *Anthony* of *Padua*; the *Royal Convent*, ſo called from the

the Tomb of one of our Queens buried there, under the Ruines of which 4 Religious were buried, the reſt eſcaped miraculouſly. But the laſt Earthquake on the 11th laid in the Duſt the remainder of the City, with the Death of about 4000 People that returned thither after the firſt Shake to take care of their Goods. So that there is now but the Carcaſe of a City all ſhatter'd to pieces, not one Houſe left ſtanding.

Carlentine, a Modern City, being as a Citadel dependent on *Lentine*, had the ſame Fate. The beautiful Caſtle of *Licodia* all ruined, with the Marchioneſs of *Martini* and all her Children buried therein.

Bizrini, a City of rich Inhabitants, is level'd with the Ground, with the Death of many People; part by the firſt, and the reſt by the laſt day's Earthquake.

Sortino and *Caſſero* are quite demoliſh'd; in the firſt about 3000 periſh'd, and in the other a very great number.

Agoſta, a Trading Town, built on an Iſland in a large Bay, which makes a capacious Port, was all blown up into the Air; for beſides the Damage of the Earthquake, there was a great quantity of Powder in the Caſtle that took Fire, and killed ſeveral of the Citizens that had eſcaped into the Fields with the Stones of the Buildings: Here periſh'd about 3000. The enraged Sea grew terribly boiſterous, and tempeſtuouſly beat againſt the Walls of the *Dominican* Convent with ſuch Fury, that ſome Galleys belonging to the Knights of *Malta* ſcarcely eſcaped Shipwrack in the Port. In fine, *Luctus ubique pavor, & plurima mortis imago.* The Country of *Mililli* in the Dutchy of *Montalto*, felt the ſame Fate, with the Deſtruction of the Inhabitants.

Syracuſa, famous in old time, an Epiſcopal See; in our time like the Phœnix ariſing from the Aſhes, ſtanding upon a Peninſula, by Art made an Iſland, having a Bridge to the main Land; ſtrengthened with a Modern

Fortification, ſufficiently populous by reaſon of its convenient Situation for Trade, full of Nobility, and beautify'd with Churches, Convents, Monaſteries and Palaces, now mourns in Ruines. It was ſenſible of *Friday*'s, but all ſhock to pieces by the *Sunday*'s Earthquake, with the loſs of many Thouſand Perſons. Moſt of the Nobility ſaved themſelves by a timely Flight. Of the Religious not many periſh'd. Scarce a Village in the whole Dioceſs is left: Confuſion reigns every where; and the Miſery is encreaſed by the want of Food, cauſed by the Granaries and Mills being deſtroyed.

Laſerla, *Palazzuolo* and *Buſceni* lie in Ruines, with many Inhabitants deſtroyed.

Spacaforno, a populous place, ſituated near the Sea, which waſhes the Foot of the Promontory *Pachino*, has loſt all its Buildings: Here they reckon about 2000 dead.

Giarratana with its Fall killed moſt of the Inhabitants. The Marqueſs himſelf with his Wife and Three Children eſcaping on *Friday*, were on *Sunday* buried in the Ruines; the Marqueſs and his Children were taken out alive to bewail the loſs of his Lady.

Melitello in the Valley of *Noto* is ſhaken to pieces, the Churches and chief Buildings even with the ground, and the Religious Orders all turned out in the open Air, or under Huts and Cabines.

Occhiula eſcaped not the common Calamity.

Mineo, an ancient City, is now no more; and the greater part of the Citizens and Religious.

Caltagirone, a City conſpicuous for its Senate and Nobility, ſuffered in this univerſal Calamity the total Ruine of its proud Edifices: As the principal Church with its very high Steeple or Spire, the Famous Colledge of St. *Julian*, the Temple of St. *George*, the Pariſh-Church of St. *James*, admired for the Pictures of *Epiphanius*, the Chappel only remaining, with the Image and Reliques of the

the Saint. The Temple of the *Conventuals* thrown down, the famous Bridge that joyns the Convent to the Town ſhattered to pieces, and the Dormitories not to be inhabited; the famous Convent of St. *Bonaventure*, the fall of whoſe Temple and Spire was the Deſtruction of the lower Buildings; the Colledge of the Jeſuits, and the Steeple of that Noble Church are quite ruined. The *Carmelites*, *Dominicans*, *Auguſtines*, *Crouched Friars*, &c. are all without Churches and Convents. The Monaſteries of St. *Gregory*, St. *Chiara*, St *Salvator* and St. *Stephen*, with a Conſervatory of Orphans, are all ſhook down. In fine, the Senate-Houſe, adorned with moſt curious Statues, and all the other Buildings, are either fallen, or threaten a ſudden Ruine in theſe Deſolations. About 1000 People were loſt.

Modica, a populous place, and chief of the Seigniory of the Admiral of *Caſtile*, has its Buildings and Famous Caſtle laid in the Duſt. Seignior *Abbot Frederick* the Procurator General ſaved himſelf in the Colledge of the Jeſuits, from whom we have the Account; and that the Cities of *Raguſa*, *Scicli*, and *Chiaramonte* had the ſame Misfortune.

Comiſo ſuffered much in its Buildings, though but few were killed. The Convent is down, but the Church ſtands.

Noto, an ancient and ingenious City, full of Nobility and fine Buildings, Convents and Monaſteries, as we hear by a Courier from thence, is all ruin'd; the Convents of the *Dominicans*, *Conventuals*, *Reformati*, *Carmelites*, and *Capuchins*, which was indeed a wondrous Fabrick, are all torn to pieces. The Church of the Crucifixion, the *Dome*, and all the Nunneries are down, with the Deaths of many Citizens and Nobles.

To conclude, there is not a Corner in all the Valley of *Noto* that is not ruined wholly, or for the moſt part, with a dreadful Slaughter of the People. The Southern Coaſts, as *Licati*, *Terra Nova* and *Gircuti* have ſuffered Damage in their Buildings. And all the Caſtles of the Valley of *Emone* near *Mongibello* are crack'd and broken, or fallen down.

This is the Tragedy of *Sicilia*. His Excellency Seignior *Vicere* has given prudent and neceſſary Orders from *Palermo* for the Relief of the afflicted and miſerable Remains of an amazed and half-dead People.

VIII. *An Extract of a Letter from Mr.* Anth. Van. Leeuwenhoek, *containing ſeveral Obſervations on the Texture of the* Bones *of Animals compared with that of Wood: On the Bark of Trees: On the little Scales found on the* Cuticula, *&c.*

I Some years ſince writ Mr. *Oldenburgh*, That I conceived the Bone to be conſtituted of Globules; but finding my Miſtake, I retracted that Opinion: For what I then took for Globules, was the tops of the Tubes or Cilinders whereof the Bone is compoſed.

Not ſatisfied with my Obſervations thereon, I continued my Endeavours to diſcover the true Texture of Bones; and at length found plainly in the Thigh Bone of an Ox, that it conſiſted of four ſorts or ſizes of Tubes, whereof ſome are ſo very ſmall and cloſe united, as not eaſily to be diſcerned in a Bone cut a-croſs, though with